FARM AND GARDEN.

Grafting the Grapevine, and Other Topics of Interest.

Grafting the Grapevine.

Numerous inquiries have been made this spring as to the method of grafting the grapevine, but too late for a reply to be given in time to be useful this season. Some of the writers propose to take wild grapevines, and use them as stocks upon which to graft desirable varieties. This would be very poor economy. An old vine of any kind is rarely worth removing, and least of all, a wild one. Such vines are poorly furnished with roots, and would make very poor stocks. If one already has an old vine of a poor variety, and wishes to graft it with a more desirable kind, he can do so by digging down and inserting the cions below the surface of the ground. The proper season for this operation is in the fall, when vegetation is at rest. If the old root is in a healthy condition, a very vigorous growth will follow. Another method of grafting is to insert the cion in a strong cane, or branch of the vine, selecting one that may be bent down, and have the union of stock and cion, with a joint or two of the cane, covered with soil The method known as whip-grafting is employed, the cion and stock being held together by a tie, instead of wax. The grafted cane is then laid in a shallow trench, in such a manner that a bud or two of the cion will be above ground. This, it will be seen, is a combination of layering and grafting. The cion is nourished at first by the old vine, but in the course of the season, the buried portion of the cane will produce abundant roots, and in the fall may be separated from the parent plant. This operation should be performed early in spring, before there is danger of copious "bleeding," which might prevent the union. It may also be done upon the new growth, after the shoots of the season have become sufficiently matured, in this case using cions of similar new growth. This method with new wood we have not tried, but it is said to be successful. Nearly all of our hardy grapes are grown so readily from cuttings, and come into bearing so soon, that this is the usual and least troublesome manner of propagating them.

Hiving Bees.

Some apiarists practice clipping one wing of each queen. Then when a swarm issues from the hive, she cannot follow, but crawls about upon the ground in front of the hive. The bee-keeper catches, cages, and lays her aside in the shade, moves the old hive to a new location, and by the time the swarm has decided to return, because it has no queen, he has a new hive similar in appearance to the old one, upon the old stand, and the bees, taking it for their old home, enter it, and while they are going in, the queen is allowed to run in with them. Thus the bees hive themselves without being allowed to even cluster. An objection to this method is, that queens are sometimes lost in the grass. When a swarm of bees returns, it may enter the wrong hive, and if it makes no mistake in this direction, it occasionally clusters all over the outside of the hive, and remains there a long time before entering. If the queen is allowed to enter the hive too soon, she may come out again, thinking, perhaps, that she has not "swarmed," and the bees follow her. There are some indications that clipped queens are regarded by the bees with dissatisfaction, and are thus superseded. A queen that is lost can often be found by looking for the little knot of bees that usually accompanies her. If a swarm attempts to enter the wrong hive, a sheet can be thrown over the hive. If a queen is not given to a swarm until the bees begin to show signs of uneasiness, she is not apt to leave the hive. When the queen is unclipped, a swarm will usually soon cluster upon the branch of some tree. As the cluster begins to form, it should be noticed whether it is in a favorable location for removal. If it is where several branches cross, some of them should be cut away with the knife or pruning shears, leaving but one branch for the bees to cluster upon. If the bees are slow in clustering, and more swarms are momentarily expected, their movements can be hastened by sprinkling them with water, using a fountain pump.

Specimen Orchards.

Of all classes of business men, fruit-growers should be the slowest to take things from hearsay. Nothing but demonstrable facts should satisfy them. Their bnsiness is dealing with "futures," too far remote to be trifled with. They plant trees to bear fruit, not next autumn, like a field of corn, but five or trenty years from now. Hence they must be very sure that the tree they plant this spring is not only of the best age and shape, but of the variety best adapted to their purpose. How are they to know this? Only in one way—by actual experiment. A grower sees a beautiful specimen of fruit, and finds it highly recommended. The fruit pleases him; as a specimen it seems perfect; but unfortunately it was grown many miles away, or in another state, and how is he to know it will succeed on his farm? The soil may be different, perhaps the climate is also. His only sure way will be, to buy five or ten trees, plant them in a specimen orchard and see. In due time he will know whether to plant that variety by the hundred, or dig up the trees he has. If every one of his neighbors also had a few trees on trial, their united testimony would be conclusive for that locality. This should apply to small fruits as well. The "Big Bob" may be the biggest of strawberries, but how can we know it is the best for us, if not by actual trial? Let each grower set apart a plot of ground for a specimen orchard, and each year add several new varieties. Give an average amount of care and cultivation, and carefully note the growth, habit and peculiarities of the trees, and finally the fruit of each. The writer has such an orchard of trees, gathered from four States. It comprises new varieties and "promising seedlings." The trees are not yet large enough to bear, but if the future profits equal the present pleasure of comparing the different trees, the venture will be a very satisfactory one, to say nothing of the information gained.

The Jersey Cattle Boom.

The leading aim of the best breeders now seems to be to breed for the butter record. This is so much the case, that the great majority of Jersey cows that have a record below fourteen pounds of butter a week, are comparatively cheap, while those with a record of fourteen pounds a week, upwards to twenty-five and thirty pounds a week, are comparatively high. Those at the top of the scale are sought for and bring fabulous prices, or what would be called such a few years ago. Great emphasis is put upon their butter record, and the conditions of the tests, as to rations and previous feed of cow, continually grow more precise and satisfactory. The aim is, to show the value of a given animal on a specified value of rations, as a machine for making butter, or what the cow will do on grass alone, in flush feed. These tests are made under the supervision of the American Jersey Cattle Club, or under the direction of such witnesses as secure impartially and give entire confidence in their correctness. These butter records of the Jerseys are quite remarkable, compared with the average yield of other cows. They are remarkable especially, as showing the prepotency of bulls.—*American Agriculturist.*

Minor Topics.

It is said that the Baldwin apple has seven synonyms, the Fallawater seventeen, and some others as many as thirty different names.

It is said that eggs from hens in close confinement seldom hatch well. It is also advisable in selecting fowls to breed from not to take the largest.

Half a pint of sunflower seeds given to a horse with his other food each morning and night will keep him in good health and spirits and his hair will be brighter. Horses soon become very fond of the sunflowe seeds.

There is no better investment for farmers than in draft horses. They are as much a staple in the markets as wheat, pork or coffee, and can as quickly be turned into cash.

An experienced dairyman says: "Never churn your cream till the butter comes in chunks as big as your fist. Stop churning when the butter grains are twice the size of a pin head. Such butter has good grain and brings more than greasy butter."

CURIOUS ERRORS IN TYPE.

Amusing Blunders Which Often Escape the Proofreader's Eye.

Manifold are the vicissitudes of the manuscript of newspaper writers. Many of the errors revealed in cold type are extremely comic. The fault is proportionately divided between the compositor and the proofreader, although the latter prevents many a ludicrous blunder from reaching the public eye. A reporter on a Binghamton journal, in his account of a ball, intended to say that the belle of the evening "looked au fait." The compositor thought he knew better, and set it up so that it read that the young lady looked "all feet." The proofreader passed this awful "bull," and the item was thus published. The effect upon the editor and "the belle of the evening" is concealed from a curious public. In a description of the study of a popular authoress a very important little "l" was dropped by the compositor and overlooked by the proofreader, so that the paper was made to say that the windows of her room were "tastefully decorated with choice hanging pants." A Minneapolis minister in a recent Sunday sermon used the expression, "All Europe is coming here." Again the awful compositor, who put it into type, "All Europe is crying hell." In a report of a dinner given by the Bowdoin alumni of Portland, Me., recently, the menu was published in full by a local paper, and under the heading of "Poisson" (fish) the misplacing of a period made it appear rather ridiculous. Of course "boiled chicken, halibut, anchovy sauce," was the piece de resistance, but the newspaper saw fit to print it, "Boiled chicken. Halibut, anchovy sauce."

"An expression found its way into our colums yesterday," says a Montreal paper, "which we much regret. In our reference to Sir John Macdonald's singularly mistaken remarks with regard to Sir Richard Cartwright, the sentence should have read: 'Sir John must have been intoxicated with his brimming honors,' etc. The two words 'brimming honors' appeared in print as 'bumming heroes.'" Very recently a critic of a leading newspaper wrote a description of a piece produced at the Thalia theater called "Die Fledermaus," and the compositor put it into type, "Die Fiedexmans." In the same article reference was made to the opera of "Fra Diavolo," and still another struggle by the compositor resulted in "Fra Trawls." A metropolitan reporter wrote for his journal an account of a church ceremony, and a description was given of the appearance of the chancel, during which he used the words, "the altar was surrounded by surpliced fathers." The compositor improved it, as he thought, by putting it into type, "the altar was surrounded by scorpions' feathers." An attempt was made by a correspondent in Montreal during the excitement concerning the defalcation and flight of Eno, who had been seen in a hotel in that city in a somewhat excited frame of mind, to say that "Eno walked through the corridors all night." The compositor went wrong, the proofreader followed in the same direction, and the paper was made to say that "Eno walked the car-riders all night." "A partner of Mr. Marquand" has been transformed into "a partner of the rear guard," "jury selected from a panel in New York," into "a jury selected from a panel in the dark," "the husks which the swine did eat," into "the husks which the prince did eat," rancor, acerbity," into "ranconacerbility." "Red Letter Days," into "Red Letter Dogs," etc., and the list could be extended beyond the limits of newspaper space.

It was somewhat annoying to Boston people to have their city alluded to, in a recent work on Dickens, as the "Hut of the Universe," and also to readers anywhere, and particularly the author, when he wrote "Prisoner of Chillon," to have it appear "Poisoner of Children." "I am an Englishman first and I am a Catholic always," were the words written in an account of an address delivered by a gentleman in the city of New York on a certain occasion. By the substitution of a rather mild profane word, the capital I having been somewhat like a written *d*, the compositor formed a sentence which was not passed by the proof-reader, and the community was not proportionately shocked. The blasting of rocks in the upper part of the city annoyed the residents of the neighborhood a good deal, and an appeal was made to the newspapers. A reporter addressed, in the course of an article on the subject, the following appeal to the commissioners: "Can not something be done to prevent the careless and reckless blasting in the vicinity of Central park?" The subjoined beautifully complicated sentence was the product of the compositor's brain: "Can not something be done to prevent the camels and sheep from bleating in the vicinity of Central park?" The subject of tontine insurance has been given much prominence in the newspapers lately, and to some compositors the word does not seem to be a familiar one. "Towline insurance" and "routine insurance" make their appearance occasionally on the proof-sheets. A western congressman of some prominence, whose name, we believe, goes into the small capital or independent collection of names in the newspaper reports of congressional votes, wrote an article for his local paper in which a harrowing sentence was rounded off with the words: "The dwarfed and haggard children of the poor." The compositor put it into shape thus: "The dooryard and hog-fed children of the poor." A misplaced punctuation mark sometimes alters the sense of a printed sentence. A New Haven paper recently found it necessary to explain at some length why a comma went astray. The sentence was printed as follows: "However much the postmaster general may disappoint the multitude of place-seeker, *she* will command the approval of the general public." Of course the words "place-seeker, she," should have read "place-seekers, he," the mistake arising from the transposition of the comma and letter "s," but the editor felt it incumbent upon him to explain, as a sharp-eyed reader had written to inquire if that paper considered Postmaster General Vilas an old woman.

In transmitting over the wires to a newspaper a long account of the arrest in Montreal of a counterfeiter, a telegraph operator encountered in the correspondent's written story the slang phrase, "shoving the queer." His education had been neglected, no doubt, in the direction of slang, or the manuscript was very bad, for the operator at the New York end of the wire heard ticked out on his instrument that the prisoner had been arrested for "shaving the queen!" A dramatic critic, whose penmanship was wretched, wrote a criticism for the comic opera "Girofle-Girofla," and was considerably agitated on finding in the proof at stated intervals, "Sniffle-Snaffle." In a long article headed "Men of Letters," giving an account of compositors and their peculiarities, a Boston journal remarked: "Bad manuscript is a fruitful source of annoyance and loss to the compositor, and is responsible for as many errors as anything else. Still, the compositor can occasionally exhibit a striking instance of misdirected genius even with printed copy or faultless manuscript. If he should happen to be in conversation, not even the fact of printed copy can save him from introducing it in the type. One of the 'intelligent compositors' of a daily, more intent on a conversation than his duty, produced the astounding police item that 'Samuel Jones was arrested for being drunk at the corner of Shawmut avenue and Constantinople;' another, eagerly discussing the drama, made 'shepherdless sheep' appear as 'Shakspeare's sheep.' Sheer ignorance, though that is not a common fault, made one fresh from the rural districts speak of 'Prince Beeswax and his policy' instead of Prince Bismarck. When time presses type is sometimes placed in the form before the proofreader has a chance to read it. Under such circumstances a dramatic critic of this city was made to say that Mary Anderson 'cast looks of love at her ten dresses' when 'looks of love and tenderness' was intended." In an issue of a Boston daily paper a eulogy of a deceased merchant by a distinguished preacher conveyed to the public the fact that "the deceased was a man of sterling Christian character and of a business integrity, oats 87c to 97c for May; 90c to 96c for June, beyond suspicion," through a misplaced line of type.—*New York Times.*